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ABSTRACT

Approximately six hundred respondents drawn from a population of undergraduate summer school students in the Montreal area were used to test two hypotheses: (1) French Canadians will hold attitudes of greater hostility toward authority than English Canadians; and (2) English speaking Canadians will hold attitudes of greater anxiety toward authority than will French Canadians. Each respondent completed a 24-item Likert type scale in his native language which measured four affective dimensions of attitudes toward authority: hostility, acceptance, anxiety, and neutrality. Ninety respondents were also given two sets of developmental questionnaires. The results of the study supported the hypotheses. There were no significant differences between French and English Canadians on attitudes of neutrality toward authority. It was concluded that language may serve as a tag to identify attitudes between cultural groups. (HOD)

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Language and Social Attitudes

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Language and Social Attitudes

Lindgren and lindgren (4) used the incomplete sentence technique to tap the attitudes of Americans and Canadians towards authority and found that Canadians were significantly more hostile in their expressed attitudes towards authority than were Americans. Sallery and Lindgren (11), using similar subjects and techniques, also found that attitudes towards authority varied with the cultural background of the subject.

Cultures vary not only between countries but also within countries. For example, the people of Canada represent several different cultural groups such as the French, English, Slavic, and Italian. Further useful cross-cultural information might be obtained if the attitudes of different Canadian cultural groups were compared and language might serve as an independent cultural variable in this officially bilingual country. Thus, language has been chosen as the independent cultural variable of this study which compares the attitudes of Canada's two official language groups, the French and the English.

Several cross-cultural studies indicate that differences do exist between these two language groups. Malo (5), Carlisle (2), and Brazeau (1) report behavioral differences between French and English Canadians while Auclair and Reed (10) report attitudinal differences between these cultural groups. Each of these studies relates to the authority exercising situation.

Three of these studies indicate that French Canadians tend to be more accepting of the authoritarian structure in their life-styles, however, Brazeau (1) reports that French speaking recruits reacted negatively to the authority structure in the Canadian Air Force. The inconsistency of the results raises this question: Might the behavior and attitudes of French Canadians, which appear to be accepting and co-operative, actually be a camouflage for hostility? This study attempted to answer this question and tested the following hypothesis: French Canadians will hold attitudes of greater hostility towards authority than English Canadians.

A power differential exists in Canada whereby the English Canadians hold most of the economic, social, and political power (9). This power, especially in the socially unstable province of Quebec, is not as secure as it might have once been (6) and many English speaking Canadians in Quebec are displaying their anxiety by limiting their investments in Quebec while others are moving to neighboring provinces. A consideration of these social facts leads to the second hypothesis of this study: English speaking Canadians will hold attitudes of greater anxiety towards authority than will French Canadians.

METHOD

Respondents

The 599 respondents were drawn from the population of undergraduate summer school students in the Montreal area. The respondents were enroled in the humanities, social sciences, and education at the Université de Québec (Montréal campus), McGill University (MacDonald and St. Joseph campuses), and the Université de Montréal (Loyola campus). The majority of the respondents were engaged in full time occupations and, thus, were only part time students.

Each respondent categorized himself according to his first language. English speaking respondents numbered 375 and French speaking respondents numbered 224.

Materials

Each respondent completed a 24 item Likert type scale in either French or English. The scale measured four affective dimensions of attitudes towards authority; attitudes of hostility, attitudes of acceptance, attitudes of anxiety, and attitudes of neutrality. The scale was constructed specifically for this study and emerged in a two step process simultaneously in French and English. Four bilingual Canadians served as translators and 90 respondents (45 French and 45 English), drawn from the research population, responded to the two sets of developmental questionnaires.

Developmental Questionnaire # 1. Sixty respondents (30 French and 30 English) completed the first set of developmental questionnaires which asked them to judge the intensity of the affective attitudinal connotation of 120 items divided into four sets of 30. The four sets contained items perceived to be either hostile, accepting, anxious, or neutral in affective attitudinal connotation towards authority. Each item was a declarative sentence referring to authority developed from authority oriented sentence stems used by Lindgren and Lindgren (4) and Sallery and Lindgren (11).

The respondents were given the following instructions for each set of 30 items:

> Please judge the degree of hostility (acceptance, anxiety, or neutrality) in each of the statements listed below. Webster's dictionary defines hostility (acceptance, anxiety, neutrality) as "emnity, ill will, or unfriendliness" (or definition of acceptance, anxiety, or neutrality).

The respondents then proceeded to categorize each sentence into one of the five categories: (a) does not possess the affective attitudinal connotation, (b) possesses the connotation, (c) possesses a slight amount of the connotation, (d) possesses quite an amount of the connotation, and (e) possesses an extreme amount of the connotation. Each item assumed a general form similar to the following:

1. Politicans are undependable.

a) not hostile _____
b) hostile _____
c) slightly hostile _____
d) quite hostile _____
e) extremely hostile _____

Thus, each of the 30 French respondents categorized four sets of 30 French items and each of the 30 English respondents categorized four sets of 30 English items.

Coding ranged from one (does not possess the affective attitudinal connotation) to five (possesses an extreme amount of the affective attitudinal connotation) and the 30 responses to both the French and the English versions of each item were summed yielding a possible range of 30 to 150 for each version. The 10 items which scored highest on affective attitudinal intensity in each of the four sets of 30 in both French and English were chosen to be further tested by means of a second set of developmental questionnaires.

Developmental Questionnaire # 2. The forty items on the second set of developmental questionnaires contained the four sets of ten items rated as the most hostile, accepting, anxious, and neutral in both French and English. This set of questionnaires was designed to check the ability of the items

to measure the respective attitudinal dimensions.

The respondents (15 French and 15 English) followed instructions to categorize each of the 40 randomized items into one of four affective categories which, in their perceptions, the items represented. The instructions follow:

> Please read each statement listed below. If you heard this statement spoken, would you consider the speaker to be: Hostile, Accepting, Anxious, or Neutral towards the authority figure mentioned?

Definitions of hostility, acceptance, anxiety, and neutrality followed (English definitions from Webster (7) and French definitions from Larousse (3)). Each item assumed a general form similar to the following:

1. I am speechless around law officers.

a) hostile _____
b) accepting _____
c) anxious _____
d) neutral _____

Test items which the respondents categorized in the predicted manner with a frequency of 66.67% or higher in both French and English were chosen for the final Likert type scale.

Likert Type Attitude Scale. Respondents reacted to a 24 item Likert type scale. Seven of the items measured attitudes of hostility towards authority, seven of the items measured attitudes of acceptance of authority, seven of the items measured attitudes of anxiety towards authority, and three of the items measured attitudes of neutrality towards authority. The two step developmental process yielded French and English versions of a 24 item scale designed to measure attitudes towards authority.

Letter of Introduction. French and English versions of a letter

of introduction preceded the attitude scale and served three functions: introduction, orientation, and motivation.

Procedures

Collection. The researcher, with the help of the class professor distributed the research instrument prior to the lecture and summarized the letter of introduction verbally. The respondents were promised the results upon request.

Coding. The responses to the five response option Likert type attitude scale were coded from (1) strongly agree to (5) strongly disagree for each item. The scores were treated cumulatively for each attitude dimension and each respondent yielding a possible range of seven to 35 on the hostility, acceptance, and anxiety dimensions and a possible range of three to 15 on the neutrality dimension. This process yielded four dependent scores for each respondent.

Analysis. Prior to analysis, respondents were divided by linguistic affiliation and this division was followed by four one way analyses of variances for unequal size groups (Edstat Program = ANOVA). One analysis compared the attitudes of hostility of French and English Canadians; the second analysis compared the attitudes of acceptance; the third analysis compared the attitudes of anxiety; and the final analysis compared the attitudes of neutrality towards authority. The 0.05 level of significance was the criterion applied to all statistical tests (12).

RESULTS

The results lend support to the two research hypotheses. The first hypothesis predicted that French Canadians would hold attitudes of greater hostility towards authority than English Canadians and the analysis

TABLE 1

ONE WAY ANOVA OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH CANADIAN ATTITUDES OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS AUTHORITY

SOURCE OF VARIATION	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	SUMS OF SQUARES	MEAN SQUARE	F-RATIO	P
BETWEEN	1	356.970	356.970	20.7236	0.0001****
WITHIN	597	10,283.3250	17.225		
TOTAL	598	10,640.2950			

****P 0.0001

TABLE 2

ONE WAY ANOVA OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH CANADIAN ATTITUDES OF ANXIETY TOWARDS AUTHORITY

SOURCE OF VARIATION	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	SUMS OF SQUARES	MEAN SQUARE	F-RATIO	P
BETWEEN	1	398.569	398.569	15.1202	0.0003***
WITHIN	597	15,736.920	26.360		
TOTAL	598	16,135.489			

***P 0.001

TABLE 3

ONE WAY ANOVA OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH CANADIAN ATTITUDES OF ACCEPTANCE OF AUTHORITY

SOURCE OF VARIATION	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	SUMS OF SQUARES	MEAN SQUARE	F-RATIO	P
BETWEEN	1	31.999	31.999	3.1890	0.0709
WITHIN	597	5,990.298	10.034		
TOTAL	598	6,022.297			

TABLE 4

ONE WAY ANOVA OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH CANADIAN ATTITUDES OF NEUTRALITY TOWARDS AUTHORITY

SOURCE OF VARIATION	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	SUMS OF SQUARES	MEAN SQUARE	F-RATIO	P
BETWEEN	1	1.546	1.546	0.2859	0.5998
WITHIN	597	3,229.770			
TOTAL	598	3,231.316			

of the data supports this prediction (see Table 1). The second hypothesis

insert Table 1 about here

predicted that English Canadians would hold attitudes of greater anxiety towards authority than French Canadians and the analysis of the data supports this prediction (see Table 2).

insert Table 2 about here

The analysis failed to reveal any significant differences between French and English Canadians on attitudes of acceptance of authority (see Table 3). The same holds true for attitudes of neutrality towards authority

insert Table 3 about here

(see Table 4).

insert Table 4 about here

DISCUSSION

The question arises: Why do significant differences exist on certain affective attitudinal dimensions and not on others? This study indicates that French Canadians hold attitudes of greater hostility towards authority than do English Canadians. This finding coincides with the findings of Jacques Brazeau (1) in his study of the French Canadian recruits in the RCAF. Brazeau found that French Canadian recruits reacted negatively to the English dominated officer corps and one might interpet the results of this study in a similar fashion; that is, a negative reaction of the French Canadian group to an authority structure which in Canadian business, industry, and politics is represented is largely represented by an English speaking group.

The second significant difference was related to the anxiety

dimension of the scale. English speaking respondents were significantly more anxious in respect to authority than were French speaking respondents. In interpeting this finding, one must remember that this study was conducted during the summer of 1970 in Quebec which was experiencing the climax of a period of social unrest. Reviewing the situation, one finds that the power base of the English speaking minority in Quebec was being challenged by the French speaking majority and the exodus of monnied English Canadians as well as the drain of English Canadian funds from Quebec banks suggests a degree of anxiety on the part of English Quebecers. The kidnapping of the Englishman, James Cross, as well as the kidnapping-murder of Quebec Labor Minister, Pierre Laporte, at the hands of French Canadian separatists during the late summer of 1970 would do little to reduce this level of anxiety.

Attitudes of acceptance of authority was the third dependent variable of the study and although not significant at the 0.05 level, the results follow the predictions of the Carlisle (2) study. Carlisle found that French Canadians tended to show more deference to their managers (who in Quebec are mostly English) than did English Canadians.

There were no significant differences between French and English Canadians on attitudes of neutrality towards authority and for all practical purposes, one may regard this dimension as the buffer dimension of the scale.

SUMMARY

This ex post facto survey of French and English Canadian attitudes towards authority supported two hypotheses; that French Canadians held attitudes

of greater hostility towards authority than English Canadians and that French Canadians held attitudes of less anxiety than English Canadians. The results were discussed in relation to prior French-English attitude research. One may conclude that language may serve as a tag to identify attitude differences between cultural groups.

Further research might investigate the degree to which the differences found depend on non-linguistic variables such as class, religion, and political affiliation. Related methodological research might further test and validate the instrument offered here as well develop related bilingual measures. Finally, and probably, most importantly, the implications of linguistic group attitudinal differences for intercultural communication must be drawn forth and practiced.

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